

§ 5 • *The Resurrection of Osiris*

In the foregoing account of the festival, drawn from the The res-
great inscription of Denderah, the burial of Osiris
figures QsS"
prominently, while his resurrection is implied
rather than represen
expressed. This defect of the document,
however, is amply °^!
compensated by a remarkable series of bas-
reliefs which ments.
accompany and illustrate the inscription. These
exhibit in
a series of scenes the dead god lying swathed as a
mummy
on his bier, then gradually raising himself up
higher and
higher, until at last he has entirely quitted the
bier and is
seen erect between the guardian wings of the
faithful Isis,
who stands behind him, while a male figure holds up
before
his eyes the *crux ansata*, the Egyptian symbol of life.¹
The
resurrection of the god could hardly be
portrayed more
graphically. Even more instructive,
however, is another
representation of the same event in a chamber
dedicated to
Osiris in the great temple of Isis at Phiiae,
Here we see
the dead body of Osiris with stalks of corn
springing from
it, while a priest waters the stalks from a pitcher
which he
holds in his hand. The accompanying inscription
sets forth
that " this is the form of him whom one may
not name,
Osiris of the mysteries, who jspiigs f&om
AQ returning
waters." ² Taken together, the picture and the
words seem
to leave no doubt that Osiris was here conceived
and repre-
sented as a personification of the corn which
springs from

A. Marietta-Pacha, *Denderah*) pp. 336
Mytho-
sq. ; R. V. Lanzone, *op. cit.* p. 744.
p. 621 ; R.
Marietta supposed that after depositing
Mitologia
the new image in the sepulchre they
Wiedemann,

² H. Brugsch, *Religion mid*
logie der alien Aegypter;
V. Lanzone, *Dizionario di*
Egizia, plate cclxi. ; A.

carried out the old one of the preceding
Le Museon,
year, thus setting forth the resurrection
A. Wallis
as well as the death of the god. But
the Egyptian
this view is apparently not shared by
According to Prof.
Brugsch and Lanzone. Wiedemann, the corn springing
from
¹ A. Marietta - Bey, *Denderah*, iv. the god's body is barley.
Similarly
(Paris, 1873} plates 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, in a papyrus of the Louvre
(No. 3377)
71, 72, 88, 89, 90; R. V. Lanzone, Osiris is represented
swathed as a mummy and lying on his
Dizionario di Mitologia Egizia, pp.
back, while
757 "²<2<?"> "fth pJates cclxviii.-ccxcii. ; stalks of corn sprout from
his body.
E. A. Wallis Budge, *The Gods of the* See R. V. Lanzone, *op.*
cit. pp. *Soi*
Egyptians, ii. 131-138; *id.*, *Osiris sq.*, with plate cccliii.
2; A. Wiede-
and the Egyptian Restirrection, ii. mann,
"L'Osirisvegetant," *Le Museon*,
31 sqq. N.S. iv. (1903) P- 112.